

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and apparatus for automatically assigning a locally administered MAC address to at least one client in a local area network ("LAN") system, and a method and apparatus for detecting duplicate locally administered MAC

5 addresses, where the LAN system comprises at least one client and may comprise at least one server. It is emphasized that this abstract is provided to comply with the rules requiring an abstract that will allow a searcher or other reader to quickly ascertain the subject matter of the technical disclosure. It is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to interpret or limit the scope or meaning of

10 the claims. 37 CFR 1.72(b).